

The dece
men, to the
and ensamir



Take on thy
And feare not
For thought
Take thou hereof, hart
For they that be good, &
With this, will not be gret
But they that for false loue
Besyde theyr husbandes, be
They that be good and not in
For all that is sayd: nede not to
For in this booke, they be not electe
Wherfore doo thou not sparr.
To shewe of the lewde, and theyr demerit
Throughtout this booke, where ever it bee
There can neuer good of theyr behauour
Experience daylye may se.

Of women marved, many one
Whiche were ryght lewde, and will not be known
This booke ryght playnly, maketh mencion
For diuers of their husbandes, were ouer throwen
Throught theyr false wyles, and artes mischeuous
Yet the good women, herein be not named
Wherfore to them is nothyng greuous
That they be faulty, be some what blamed
Urgyll complayneth heere, and Hercules also
For all their will great power, and strength
Samson stronge with many worthyes mo
Haue ben begyled throught women at length.

Finis.

ur of all thinges
made heauen and
and al þis therein
han made he vpon
ye of erth, our first
am in þe campe of Da
and he gaue vnto hym
id made him lord and in
ur of all thinges þe were
the knowledge and vnder
yes and vertues of al thinges
proper name. Thā the lord toke
e where he was made and set him in
ce, that he shoulde inherit it. And the lord
uam a slepe, and than toke a ribbe of him,
oe therof a woman. And whā Adam awoke, and
ue the woman by him, he sayd. These bones, ben of
my bones, and this flesch is of my fleshe. And God gaue
commaundement to the bothe and sayd. Eate of all the
frutes of Paradise, but touche not the tree the whiche
standeth in the middes.

**How the Serpent deceyued Eue, and how she
forthwith deceyued Adam.**

Whan that the Lord had giuen the commaun-
dement: than the olde serpent the deuyll prac-
tised how that he myght make him disobediēt
for he knew the strength of the man, and so he thought
for to deceyue the woman, for she is of muche febler na-
ture to withstande temptation, so he founde the woman
alone aboute the tree, than sayd the serpent to Eue, wher

foze hath the Lorde foꝛbyden you to eate of y^e fruyte of knowledgē good & euyl: Than sayde Eue, We should peraduenture dye. The serpent sayde no nat so, but ye shall be lyke goddes knowyng good and euyl, therfoze take the fruite and eate therof, and she sa w that the apple was so fayre to se, and so she tooke the apple and cat there of, and gaue it foꝛth to her husband Adam, the whi che also eate therof, as one that wolde not dysplease his Wyfe, and yet neuerthelesse he was one of the wisest mē that euer was vpon erth, sayyng only the sonne of god. And whan that they had caten of the apple: than were bothe their eyes opened, and they sa w that they were naked, and thus was the moste wyldest and fayrest man of the worlde deceyued of his wyfe.

¶ But whether y^e Eue were to blame oꝛ no y^e Adā was deceyued, that is in the great wysdom & pꝛedestynacyon of almyghty god, foꝛ y^e secrete was closed in y^e consistory of the holi trinitie, that the sonne of god should ones die foꝛ the loue of man, and the death of the Sonne of God should haue an occasion wherfoze that he should dye.

¶ Foꝛ bycause that the erthly paradysē, is the place of all erthly pleasures and is receyued to be the worthiest and the moste pꝛecyouse place of the worlde, and foꝛ as much as the woman is shapēd and made in that place & the man in the campe of Damasco, therfoze some womē haue an opynion and say that they be better than the mē and wyl be mens maysters, as it fortuneth, yet now we a dayes in the worlde. But they allegate not the woꝛdes that God spake to the woman after that the commaundement was broken, and sayd. Ye shall bere your chyldꝛen wyth payne and wo, ye shall be vnder the power of your husband, and he shall be your mayster, and shal

A.iii.

haue Lordship ouer you. And thā the man must se that
 the woman haue that y^e shalbe nedefull and necessarpe
 for her, for god hath commaunded men to worke whan
 that he sayde, in the s^e were of thy labour thou shalt eat
 thy brede, but alas there is now a dayes muche people y^e
 whyche obeyeth not the commaundement. Also the man
 shall know the ordinaunce of god, and how that he hath
 made the woman out of the middes of the man, and not
 of the head, betokenyng that she shal not be the ma^{ster}
 of the man, and also he hath not made her of a syde & set
 lytle regarde by her: but he hath made her out of y^e mid-
 des to the helpyng of man, and that man and wife shal
 lue wyth one accorde and one will in the state of wed-
 locke, and shall be two soules and one body, the whych
 god hath so ordeyned to y^e saluacion of our soules.



**A new decepte of a Woman, in
Henegowe, of late dayes.**



At the Citie of Valenciē was a myghty ryche man the whiche was receyuer of the countrey of Henegowe, and dwelt in an ende of the Citie besyde in a fayze house the which house had many places and wayes to passe throughe out to dyuers streets. And so there was one gate that was the way in to an out strete, in the which strete dwelt a good symple man the which had a very fayze woman to hys wyfe, & the receyuer went often times out at the gate for the amorous syght of that louely woman, so that he was taken with her loue, and made such acquaintance with her loue: that at last she consented to him, in so muche that he lacked nothing but tyme and place. And so past forth and the receyuer desyred often times this symple man and hys wyfe to dyners and suppers, in somoche that the receyuer and he were great frendes, and so he had this poore symple man at wayes at hys wyl and pleasure. And so it fortunied vpon a tyme that this symple man should go to a castell, the whiche was. iiii. myle fro Valenciē and so he took his iourney thitherwardes and commaunded to his wife keepinge of his house of the whiche she was verye glad, and she wed the receyuer therof & he also was verye glad therof, and toward nyght the backe gate was vnlOCKED, and there she pryncely came throughe to the receyuer, and he louingly receyued her, and she went with him into his house, for to make better acquaintance with him, where as al thinges stood redy of all sortes, and plentye of wyne, and so they past forth the eueninge makinge good chere and gaue and receyued manye a frendly kysse. And in makinge
of.

of this chere cam þ good man from his iorney, and cam
by the recepuers dooze, & saw that there was much light
in the chāber, and because that the good mā of the house
and he were good freendes, he knocked boldly at þ dooze
and so the recepuer demaunded who was there, and the
good man answered, your freend, and his wyfe incons-
tynent harde and knew the voyce of her good man, than
was she so sore agast and afayde that she coude skant
speake, and she wylt not what she should doo.

¶ How that the recepuer dyd
comfort his louer.

¶ Whan the recepuer saw that þ womā was so afayde
he sayd my loue come by and by to bed for I shall couer
you that no man shall see you. And thus they laye ayme
in ayme, with her backe to ward the dooze and the good
man was let in, and cam in the chamber, where he found
the table well arayed and well beset with good meate &
drynke, and saw the recepuer lye wyth his louer in the
bed, the good man seinge this was in doubte and sayde
to the recepuer, what hoze haue ye there wyth you in the
bedde, and wyth that the good man was set at the table
where he ate and drynke, and made good chere. But the
good man hauinge some suspencion rose fro the table &
cam afore the bedde of the recepuer and sayd: I must see
this woman ones ere that I departe, and he lyft vp the
clothes where his honest wyfe lay vnder, but the recep-
uer dyd let him, and the good poore man seying thys, he
wolde sayne haue lyft vp the couerlet and the shete with
force, wher with the recepuer (his freend) was halfe an-
gry, for they had made a compacte together, that he shold
be wher hynder parte and her backe to him the whiche
was so fayre and so whyte. And whan this was doone

that he had sent her so behynde, he sayde that he neuer
see a fairer wom an as parraynyng the hynder parte
and swoze that he neuer sawe hynde castell so lyke hys
wyfes ars. For yf I knewe not that my wyfe were ho-
nest and that she were now at home: I wolde say that
it were she, and with that she was couered agayne, and
the receyuer rebuked him, & sayd, Why doo ye saye suche
thinges by your wyfe, and such dishonesty by her, and so
at last he is departed from thence, taking his leue of the
receyuer, and bad hym good nyght, with his concubine.
And he desyred hartely that they wolde let him go home
through the backe gate, but they made an excuse & sayde
that the keye was lost, and so he muste go a great waye
about, & the receyuers seruaut went with hym home
ward, and kept him with talkyng so longe as he could.
And the good woman rose and plucked on her hose and
cast her gowne vpon her arme, and so she was let out
at the backe gate, and she came incontinent home to her
house, and so abode the coming of her good man the whiche
he came from his iorney. And whan that he cam afore
his house he saw that there was yet light in it and knock-
ed at the doore, and his wyfe went with a broome and
swept the house, and she asked who was there, and he
sayd: I am he thy husband, and she sayd thou art not my
husbande for my husband is not in the towne, neuer the
lesse he knocked agayne & sayd I am thy husband, hys
wyfe answered and sayd, go from my doore, for I know
well the voyce of my husbände. And also it is not my
husbandes custum for to come and knocke thus late at
the doore. And so at the thyrde tyme he sayd so moche þat
she knew hym, for he was fore amoued, and layde vpon
the doore as though he wolde haue broke it in peeces, &

so at last she let hym in, & she set her handes in her syde & sayd thou noughty knaue this haste thou doone for to proue me, and I tell thee þ thou arte not worthye for to haue so honest a wife. The good man saw þ he had wong he spake freendly to his wyfe and sayd I beseeche þ getil wyfe be cōtent. For of great necessitie I muste nedes returne agayne, for I haue forgotten the principall letter þ I went for. But his wyfe wolde not be content & sayd þ he cam from þ tauerne and from the stues & she cursed the houre that euer she was maryed to him. The poore simple mā whan he saw þ his wife was so angrye (thinking him selfe to be the occasion therof) cam to his wife bare head with his cap in his hand & sayd, my moste trewest wife I beseeche thee yf I haue mysseyd oz mysdoone any thing agaynst thee: I beseeche thee for the loue of god forgeue it me. For I com from a place where that I had good chere, and there as I thought that I had sene thee and through thee I was sore moued & without cause, & I am very sorry for it, therfore I beseeche thee forgeue it me & so at last she was somwhat content, but she sayd þ vnmanerly captyfe thou comest fro thine hoys & there þ hast sene theyr lewdnes, & now wilt cast thy good wyfe in the teeth there with. The good man answered alas good wyfe say not so, & I beseeche þ speke no more therof but forgeue it me, and I wyll neuer doo so agayne as longe as I lyue. Nowe after thys tyme hath the good wyfe gone often times through þ backe gate wyth lesse sorow and dreed without the knowledge of the simple mā her husband (the which neuer knew no more therof after that day) as it is shewed mee. Thus ye may heare how that men be oftentimes deceyued by their wyues.

CHow the patriarche Loth was deceyued by his two daughters.



That tyme Whan Loth was departed out of So-
 dom with hys wyfe and his two daughters: thā
 the Angel cōmaunded him that what so euer he heard
 that he should not looke backwarde, the which cōmaū-
 dement Lothes wife brake, and so she remayned there
 standynge and was transfigured into the Image of a
 salt stone, there to remayne for euer. Than wente Loth
 into a small Citie called Segor, the whiche throughe
 the prayer of thys Loth was spared for a while, and

W. it.

remap.

remaynyed standynge so longe as Lot was therein, but
Loth seyng that they wolde not leue their foule synne,
wolde not abyde no longer therein, & so he fled fro thens,
and in continēt the Citty was also destroyed, & so Lot
was in a speluncke or caue of an hyll (there about) with
his two daughters. and they had wyth them meate and
drynke, and thus beinge there, the elder daughter sayde
to her syster. Our father is olde, & there be no mē vpon
the earth that we may haue conuersacion withall after
the maner of the world, therfore come and let vs make
our father dronke wyth wyne & let vs goo lye wyth him
to thēde that we may kepe the seede of our father. And so
at euē they gaue theyr father wyne to drynke: and soo
the elder daughter went and lay wyth her father Lot,
but Lot knewe not of his daughter, nor whan that she
rose vp agayne. and the next nyght they made theyr fa-
ther dronke agayne, and than the yonger daughter
went and lay by hym, but Lot knewe not whan that
he was by her, nor whan that she arose from hym, and
both the daughters conceyued of theyr father, and the
elder daughter bare a son the whiche was called Moas
and he was the father of the Moabites. And the yonger
bare a sonne called Amon, that is as muche to saye, the
sonne of my people, and was the father of the Amony-
tes, & thus was Lot decyued of his daughters wyth
the wyne, but for to saye the truthe it was no deceyte,
for it was throughe loue and for the generacyon, and
multiplenge of the worlde, for they thought that there
had ben no moze people in the world, and that there had
ben no moze in the world but they, for they knewe none
otherwyse, & therfore they made not theyr father dron-
ke throughe deceyte to obayne theyr flesshelye lustes.
like

lyke as now many a man y^e hath a fayre wyfe y^e which
drynke the wine with marchautes, and with preestes
and so thei make they^r husbundes good chere and make
them dronke so that they fall a slepe, and than they go a
sportyng with the woman in venus pastauce. But so
dye not Loths daughters, for they dye it in a good in-
tent and for a good purpose, how be it there was great
deceypte doone.

¶ A new Deceypte fortunede of late in England.

There was in England in the Citie of London a
proctour of the Arches, y^e whiche was an olde
man, and had to hys wyfe a fayre yonge gentyl woman.
And this proctour had amonge his seruautes one that
was a mery and a fayre yonge man, the which was his
p^rincipall clarke y^e wrote for him. This clarke throughe
the dayly p^resens of his maysters wyfe, set his loue vpon
her, and spoke so often and so louyngly to her, that her
hart also was set a fyre with the loue of hym, in so much
that she loued him aboue all men, and she consented to
hym in all thynges that he desyred of her, & so they vled
they^r louely pastyme as often as they wolde. vpon a
tyme they spake together and tooke counsell howe they
might best obtayne and doo their pleasure together with-
out any drede or sorow of enuyous tonges or knowldege
of her husband, the which was somewhat ialous of his
wyfe. And than he found a suttel craft, for euer he was
as seculable to his mayster as he was to his maistris
And whan that the clarke saw that he stode well in the
fauour of his mayster, than he thought to blind y^e ialousy
of hys mayster, and so vpon a tyme he came afoze him

B.iii.

and

and wept very bytterly, wherof his mayster had greātē
maruayle and sayd beloued sōne shew to me what thou
aylest, for I wyl helpe thee yf it be in my power. Than
sayd the clarke, God thanke you good mayster for that
haue I not deserued, & the cause is so shamefull that I
dare not shew it you nor let it be knowen, wel sayd the
mayster shew it me hardelpe without anye drede, for I
wyl kepe it as sectete as thou wylt thy selfe. Thā said
the clarke, my beloued mayster euery mā thynketh (and
you your selfe perchaunce) that I am a man as another
man is, and for to lyue with women in bodely pleasure
as other doth, but alas I am not so, for I haue not wher
with, and he had coueryd his pryuy members with a ly
tle thyngc with shypes fleche, and he had stryken bp hys
preuy member towarde his nauell warde as farre as
he could, and than he shewed it to his mayster, y which
saw nothyng but a clene boyde place, and it was to see
so: as though that he had nothing there, & than the clarke
sayd, my beloued mayster there is no man that knoweth
this but you only. And therfore for the trewe seruyce that
I haue doone to you I requyre you, that it wyl please
you to doo so moch for me as to help me into some cloys
ter or abbey where that I may haue my meate & drinke
and that I may serue god for I am not mete to be in the
woylde, and wyth that he beganne bytterlye to weep
and so he blynded the eyes of hys mayster, and by cause
that he thought that he was a trewe seruaunt to hym
hys mayster counseled him that he should not goe to no
abbay nor cloyster, & sayde that he him selfe wolde pro
uide for him, & that he should remayne skyll wyth him
and so hys mayster entreated him wyth so fayze promys
es: that y clarke promysed hym for to serue hym to doo
hym

hym pleasure yet a certayne pces, wherof hys mayster
was very glad, for he coude endite & wyte very well
& coude ordeyne all other thinges belonging to his of-
fice as well as hym selfe. And for bycause that he dyd
trust his mayster & had shewed & opened to him all hys
secretes: his mayster thought þ he wolde not kepe hys
owne secretes frō hym but opened hys hart to hys ser-
uaunt in lykewyse & sayde to hym, I am sorry for thyne
impediment that god hath sent to me, therefore I haue
great pitie on þ, but one thing I shal geue the to know
for þ maye doo me good seruyce therin, þ knowest well
þ I haue a fayre yonge wyfe, þ whych is somewhat lyght
harted and quick spirted, & ye know wel þ I am an olde
man & not very lusty, & therefore perchaunce I myght be
the occasiō þ yonge lusty felowes shold come & proue her
for to bypnege her to dishonestie, and therefore I wyll be-
take her in thy keepng, & I requyre thee that thou take so
heed to her that I maye haue no occasion to be talous or
amoued agaynst her. Then the clark praysed his may-
sters maruaylously well & sayd þ she was therto to good
and to honest, & he promysed his maister þ he wold keep
and take good heed to her, & shewe him if he fynde her in
any suspect place, lyke as a good seruaunt was bound to
doo. And of this was þ maister glad, & let al sorow passe
and so went about his busynes, comaūdyng his house &
his wife to the keepng of his clark, & incontynēt the ser-
uaunt went to his maistres (the wyche was commaū-
ded to him) and tolde her all, how that his maister was
deceyued: & that that he was wont to doo afore wfeare
and drede, that dyd he now wyth a free wyll and with a
free hert. And as oftentymes as his maister rode forth:
he lefte hys Clarke at home for to kepe hys maysters.

And

And whā þ his wyfe rode out to pylgrymage oz to wed-
dynges oz to any other festes, than he had leuer that his
clarke had ben with his wyfe than any of his other may-
dens, and thus had the clarke good fortune and chaūce
for his mayster neuer knew therof. And who that sayde
ought therof he: let them say what they wolde, & thoughte
euermore that he knew well cōtrary, but hys good wyfe
knew it moche better, and thus was the poore mā foule
deceyued of his wyfe.



**How the women Jabell deceyued the
great Captayne Sifara.**

The captayne Sifara had great pynsance of me of warre, and was a great enemy agaynst them of Israell, he had in his batayle .xx. C. greate Charettes the whiche were beset on bothe sydes with sythes, suche as they haue for to mowe haye and Corne wythall, wyth the which he did great murther amonges the people of Israell. And whan that he had pursued the children of Israell .xx. yere with warre, than vpon a day there came the prophetesse Deelboza, to Barache (the captayne of Israell) and sayd vnto hym this is thy day, in the whiche the Lorde shall deliuer Sifaram into thy handes, and so she & Barach went out with .x. Men, Sifara harde this the people came vpon him, he was afrayd and lefte from his Charet, and fled away a foote. And thus as he fled the woman Jabel met hym and sayde: Lorde come wyth me and go to my house for thy sauegarde, and he went with her, & than he said I die for thirst. And Jabel herping that gaue him milke to drynke. And Sifara was very very in so muche that he fell a slepe. And Jabel tooke a great nayle and set it vpon the temple of his hed and droue the nayle crosse wyse thorough his hed, and so she kylde him. Now behold the Captayne, the which all the power of Israell coulde not subdewe, and one only woman hath wonne him wyth her deceyte.

**A deceyte doone in Artors
of a late tyme.**

L.i.

In



In the Erldome of Artors was a man of grete
 power, & whiche had a fayre yonge gētil & mā
 to his wife, & lyued very louigly together. This
 knight had losse in a batayle one of his eyes, &
 his lorde and captayne that was at ouer him was duke
 of Burgon and Erle of Artors, the whiche had made
 peace & conorde with al the other kynges and lordes in
 christendome. And for because that men sayde that this
 knyght

knpyght was a deuoute man. Upon a tyme he thought
that he wolde not lede his lyfe in making of good chere
and ener to lyue in welthe, and also coniectured in hys
mynde that it was not the waye of saluacyon. And so
vpon a tyme he made hys now to the lande of Prusse
for to helpe to defende the chrysten fayth wyth the men
and Lordes of the countrey. And shortly after he tooke
his leue of the Duke, & of hys lordes and gentrymen, and
of hys good wyfe, & so rode his way, wyth proper com-
pany accordyng to hys estate, till y he came in Prusse,
where as he was right nobly receyued, and there he dyd
many noble feates of warre agaynst the infydeles, in
so muche that his name was spred through al the world.
And so it fortunied in the meane tyme while that he was
out of hys countrey, and hys wyfe beyng a fayre younge
gentyll woman the whiche laye alone: it fortunied vpon
a tyme there came a younge proper gentyllman the whiche
wooed her for to lyc wyth her, and so he desyred her
that he myght haue the keepynge of the Cytie, and be her
husbandes lieutenant, the whiche wythin a short tyme
& wyth a lyttel labour: consented to hym. And whan that
her husoand had bene certayne yeres forth: he toke hys
leue of the lordes of Prusse, & is retourned agayne hom-
wardes, soze longyng for to reste in the swete armes of
hys fayre wyfe. And so it fortunied vpon the last nyght
that he lay but .iii. myle from his owne castel where as
he dwelt, longynge soze all the nyght for his good wyfe
(the whiche was very bely wyth an other) and he was
the fyrste vp in the mornynge, and toke hys horse, & rode
all alone in greare haste, and wyth a feruent desyre to-
warde his castell, to the entent that he might yet fynde hys
wyfe vpon her bed, & be to warme hym by her swete sides

Whiche thought full lytle vpon his commynge, and he
rode so faste, at he came before day to his castel, & whan
that he came he founde the bitter court open, and there he
left his horse standynge and wente so forth to the boted and
spoied to fore his wyues chamber wher it, at the lay and
had her pastauns with another mā, and the lord drew
his sword and knocked at the chaumber doore, wherof
his wife and the keper of the Citie merueyled sore, who
that it might be, & the wife asked who was there, and the
lord answered I am here, what slepe ye yettore y doze
The wyfe knowynge well the voyce, was sore amasyd
and sayde to her louer, that he shuld incontinent rise and
clothe hym, the whiche he dyd by and by. And the
wyfe taryed so longe tyll that he knocked agayne and
said open quickly. Than sayd his wyfe, alas my husbände
is farre from hens, I beseeche god sende hym well home
agayne. Than said the lord by my knighthode, woman
I am he, and knowe ye me not. The woman said, whan
that it shal please my husband to come home, he wyl ge
ue me good knowlege before by some of his seruauntys
to theude that I maye mete him and byd him wel come
home with his cosyns and his nexte kynred, & so I maye
honourablye receiue him as it pertaineth to a Lord,
Than said the lord what mene ye, shal I stāde longe here?
Wyll ye not knowe your husbānd? and forthwith he na
med his name, and whan that her louer had clothed hym
she had hym that he shoulde come & stande by her behynde
the doore. Than sayde the woman, alas good husbānde
yf it be you I requyre you y you forgyue it me. The lord
sayde I am content, than sayde the woman I wyl come
and let you in yf I had a candell light. And for a truche
Whan that ye knocked at the doore I had a marueylous
Good

good dreame of you, what was that sayd the lord: she answered. My lord I dreamed that ye were com home and that ye spake wyth me, and me thought that ye sawe aglerely with youre blynde eye, as ye dyd wyth the other eye. The lord sayde I wolde it were so. Than sayde the woman I beleue yet that it is so, what sayde the lord, be ye folyshe that ye beleue me not, the woman sayde, let me proue for me mynde sake, and wyth that she opened the doze and helde a candell burning in her hande. And the poore lord suffered his wife to hyde his eye with her hande, and wyth the other hande she helde the Candell before his blynde eye, and sayde, lord I beseeche you tell me the truthe whether ye do se wyth youre other eye or no, the lord sayde no by my knighthode, and wyth that his leue tenaunt of the towne wente behinde him out at the dooze so pryvely that the lord perceyued him nor, And then sayd the woman, now se I well that my dreame is but deceyte, but thanked be god that ye be here. And than she toke hym in her armes & kyssed hym many tymes, & her lord tolde her how that he had left his company behynde, and how that he rose before them and rode his way to thede & he myght yet fynde her a bedde. Than sayd the woman for a truthe yet ye be a good man. Than went he to the hote howse & bathed and washed hym, and than forthwyth wente to bed to his lady wyth great solace & pleasure. And thus was the lord deceiued of his wyfe, the whyche he tooke yet for a good honest womā for it lay dead, and was so secretly kept that my lord knewe neuer therof. And yf my lord had byden at home peradventure the woman had neuer fallen to that misgydinge, for they neuer coulde perceiue, but that she gyded her selfe well and honestly all her lyfe afore.

Now take example by this, for it is a comon prouerbe
farre from home, nere thy harme,

The deceyte of Iudith that
wonne Holofernus.



The king Holofernus beseged the Citi of Bethu-
lien with a hundred & xx. m. footmen, and. xx. M,
hersen e so strongly y there was no drinke to be gotten
in the Cite, but that they muste drynke the bloude of
beseg

bestes. The widow Judith seying this: tooke great pity
on the people, and prayed mekely to God for grace and
for to be deliuered out of Captiuitie, and for to obtayn
the victorie of their enemies, and then she went into her
chamber and arrayed her with her best arraye very ryche
lye (for she was fayre and comely of person) and God
made her more fayre. And she tooke with her a mayde &
went to the gate of the Citie where y^e the Lordes stode
and she sayd to them. Pray vnto y^e Lord God for grace
for me, that it wyll please him that I may obtayne my
purpose. And she went out of the Citie, where she was
taken and brought to fore Holofernus by his seruants
tes, and than she sayd to Holofernus I am come for to
put my lyfe in thy hand and that I may be preserued thro
rough thee, for the Citie must come shortly into thy han
des, and so by that meanes she obtayned his grace, and
what that she desired of him she had it. And so she desired
of him that she might go euery and morning to the mou
ntaynes y^e she might praye there to her god for him. And
thā he gaue commaundement to all his lordes that where
soeuer y^e the woman Judith wolde go, y^e they should let
her go free & no man to say her nay, & vpon y^e fourth day
Holofernus made a costly dinner for his lordes, & sayde to
his chamberlain. Waage: Tel y^e Hebrew woman y^e she com
to me, y^e whiche he did, & he sayd to Judith. O ye gentill
woman drede not to go in, to my lord Holofernus for he
requireth you y^e ye wil be merue & drynke the wyne with
him. Thā sayd Judith who am I, that I should not be
obedient to my lord: All y^e shall please my Lord, yf he
thynke it good: I wyll be gladd to doo. And all that
shall please him: shall be good for me as longe as my
lyfe shall endure. Than Judith rose by secretly and
arrayed.

craved her rycheley & went so forth within to Olephern⁹
and she stode befoze hym. Than was Olephernus hart
troubled, and breined in the loue of her, & so he thought
that he wolde slepe by her the same nyght and was very
mery & dronke moze wine that nyght than he had done
all his lyfe tyme to fore, and so fell a slepe vpon his bed
And Judith was onely alone with him in his chamber
and her mayde stode without and kept the dooze and at
the beddes hed longe his sword, and she drew the sword
out of the sheathe, and tooke him by the heate and lyft vp
his head and so cut it of, and put it into a ledther bagge
and tooke it to her mayd and so brought it into the Citie
of Bethulyen, and whan that it was publyshed and
known that their kinge Olephernus was dead, they
went all away, and so the Citie was deliuered oute of
captiuitie and bondage. Behold howe the greate and
mighty pryncce, the whiche coulde not be overcome wyth
all their craft, how he was wonne through the louelye
wordes and deceyte of a woman, the which many a thou
sand men did repent, and lese there lyfe therfore. Who is
it that can take hede of the deceyte of women, except he
doo vterly abstayne their company, for they be so false
and so full of deceyte, that all the hede that a man can
take is to lytle.

A new deceyte doone of
late in Fraunce.

A France was a gentylman of greate pynsaunce,
the whiche enterly loued a yonge fayre gentyl wo-
man beyng maryed, which gentyl womā loued him
no lesse than he dyd her. And therfore the gentylman
made oftentimes his complaynt to his loue of the great
dolours & paynes y^e he suffered for her sake, and she hea-
ryng hym so piteously complayne: comforted hym the
best that she could, sayeng to hym, I am alwayes redye
and at your pleasure: but I can not be at your desyre
and wyll because of my husbād. For ye knowe well that
I must be obediēt and euermore be redy at my husbādes
wyll and pleasure. Alas (sayde the gentylman) yf there
be no meanes for to shorthe my great paynes I wote not
what to doo. Than sayde the gentyl woman wyth a fer-
uent desyre to her loue: Come to nyght at one or two a
clocke and knocke at my chāber doore, for I wyl fynde
suche meanes that I wyl depart fro my husband except
som fortune do let me. The gentylman hearing this: was
comforted and was glad, & so departed from her, and a-
bode y^e houre that she had poynted hym, and so the yonge
gentyl woman sat all the nyght and had many fantas-
ies and sat musyng and was very sad for she wylt not
what shoulde fortune her, but her chaunce and fortune
was that her husbande hym selfe gaue the occasyon and
cause, that her heurnes was roured to mythe, for her
husband sawe a male lyenge in the chāber in the whiche
male was his wytes clothes and for bicause that he saw
that his wyfe sat in heurnes: he demaūded what the male
dyd in the chamber, & wherfore that it was not brought
into his place where it was wont to lye. Than said his
wyfe well husband I requyre you be not angry for our
chamberlain shal take them out for therein is parte of my
D. i. clothes.

clothees. Than sayd her husbände my Lemes that the
male is ouer lytell for to put your clothes in wythout
crokyng for they be large and longe. The gentell wo-
man sayde the male is great ynough, the lord sayd my
Lemes naye, well sayd the gnetyll woman yf it please
you I wyl lay with you a dosen of reuen shettes agast
a satyn kertell, that we wyl put you in the male as ye
be, for all that the male is so lytell. The lord sayd I
holde ye that ye doo not. Than sayde the hande mayde,
we shall see who shall wyne it. Than he drew the clo-
thes out of the male, and then the mayde toke hym and
made suche shifte that she put him in the male to his mā-
hode to, and all that were there laught and had good
sporte at it, and so playenge and mockyng wyth hym
they bounde hym faste in the male and so broughe hym
into a lyttell out chamber ferre from hys owne cham-
ber, and they cryed all, we haue wonne it, and for that
he could crye or call abode all that nyght there, & in short
tyme after that he was put in the male cam the gentyll
womans louer the whiche she had apoynted priuily by
her, of whome he was louyngly receyued, and she vp &
tolde him what was fortunied, and how she had put her
husbände in the male, and shewed hym that all thynges
was well, and therfore (sayd she) ye shal remayne thys
nyght by me, and kepe my husbands place. And thus ben-
these two louers gon to bed together and louigly haue
helled and kyssed eche other laboryng so sore that they
bothe did swet in oprayning theyr louely purpose. And
in the mornynge thys gentyll woman and her louer de-
parted heuely from eche other and she went vnto the
out chāber where her husband laye and cryed ful loude
let me out, for my Lemes ye mocke & gest with me. Than

sayd the gentyll woman alas good husbände be ye here
 yet no wof trouth I knew it not, for yester night I com-
 manded my chamberlین that sh^d should lose the male &
 let ye out, and one of my chamberlyngs sayd that ye were
 losed and that ye were hastily send for, for certayne cau-
 ses, and sayd that ye wolde not com home as this night
 and whan I herde that I went to bed and slept for I
 went that it had ben so. Than sayd her husband to her I
 beseeche you let me out, for I trowe I haue ben here lōge
 ynough. And so this gentill wyfe vnclosed the male and
 her husband crept out and was almoſte lame with lypeng,
 and than she tooke him in her armes and kist him sweet-
 ly and prayed him hertly that he wolde not be angry wth
 her. Than sayde her good husband I know wel it is not
 your faute, but the chamberlyngs shall repent it, and thā
 he made his mone and sayd that they had him in dirison
 and mocked with him, and also the moſte grete was þ^t
 he had losse hys reuin shertes. And for this he shall ne-
 uer knowe without a myschaunce fall that this booke
 come to hys hande for to read, the whiche God forbyd.
 Amen.

An olde deceyte howe the Prince Naboth
 was kiled, of the foule woman Iſabell.



B.ii.

The



The kyng Ahab, kinge of Israell dwelt in Syer,
 and had to hys wyfe the myscheuous woman Je-
 sabell the whiche pursued holy phophetes in all that she
 myght. And this king Ahab had by him in hys garden
 a great prynce called Naboth, the whiche Naboth had
 a goodly vinyard by this king Achabs house, & whiche
 the kyng entyerlye despyed, & sayd to Naboth I beseeche
 thee let me haue thy Vinyarde, and Naboth wolde not
 forgo his Vinyarde, where vpon this kyng Ahab wēt
 and

and layd him in his bed and turned hys face to the Wall
and wolde nother eate nor drynke. His Wyfe Iesabell se
ynge this: demaunded what hym ayled: Than he sayde
my louer Naboth hath sayd to me nay, that he wyl not
sell to me his vyneyard. Than Iesabel caused the prync
Naboth to be stoned to death. And than came Iesabel a
gayne to her king saying, Ryse vp eate and drynke and
make good cheere, and take the Vynyard to thee, for
Naboth is dead. And whan that Achab heard this: he a
roose vp and did inherite the Vynyarde. Here may ye see
how that the good prync Naboth hath losse his lyfe tho
rough the mischeuous woman Iesabell. But the bloud
of Naboth was auenged vpon Achab him self. For he
lias sayd to him. There that the dogges haue licked the
bloud of Naboth: there shal they also lycke thy bloud.
And the dogges shal eate the fleshe and body of the mis
cheuous woman Iesabell. And it fortuneth in short time
after, for she was stoned to death in a lytle outstrete and
there she remayned lying tyll the tyme that the wordes
of Helias were fulfilled. O moste mischeuous women
take her ensample, for God is a ryghtwise Judge, for he
sayth in the Gospell, with what measure ye mete oute
wythall, wyth the same measure shalbe measured in w
all, agayne, lyke as it fortuneth to the cursed woman Je
sabel, as it is written. Therfore ye women, let be your
disceyte, & than ye shal not be deceyued, for what God
sayth that is no lye.

¶ A new decepte doone of late.

There was a weddyd Woman, & which was of light
cōtenaūce, and moche more lyghter of hert for smal
labour and expensis wolde obtayne her grace and fa-
uour yf one had sought vpon her for loue for she was so
gentyl and so free herted. And so it fortunēd vpon a tyme
she thought for to haue two yonge men vpon one day, &
y the one should not know of y other, for she had apoynt-
ed eche vpon a certayne houre, that was, y one at. viii.
a clocke, and the other at. ix. And so in the mornynge the
good man arose vp from his wyfe and clothed him, and
went and woke his wyfe, & asked her yf she wolde not
arise, and she answered ye know well that I am halfe
acrased, & haue not slept of all the night, therfore I can
not arise yet. And so her husband let her lye and wente
his way into the Citie to worke, and in y meane whyle
his wyfe was not ydle, for as soone as the clocke had
smitten, viii. there came the yongman, the which she had
apoynted the day afore, and he knocked at the doore and
by and by he was let in and hastily vnclothed him and
went to bed to her, & so they two lay so longe together
passing y time tyll that another sued and cam knocking
at the doore. Than sayde the Woman, alas there is my
husband: than sayd the yongman Where shal I hyde me
y your husband fynde me not, for yf he fynde me it wolde
cost vs both our liues. The womā sayd, take your clo-
thes and go vp in the chamber and be there styll and se-
cret tyll y my husband be gone, and so the yongman dyd
as y womā gaue him counsell, & sat styll in y chamber y
whiche was very olde & full of wholes. And thā she lept
lustly fro her bed (knowynge well ynought y it was not
her husband that knocked at y doore) & let y other yong-
man in, y which she had apoynted at. ix. a clocke, & by

by he dyd of hys clothes, & wēt to bed to thys lusty trul
(for she was good ynough & there had come, iiii. suche)
and besely went & plowed Venus ground, & there ocu-
pied y lustes of y fleshe, so long tyl she had weryed him
But he y sat aboue in y chāber & sawe that, I reken he
was not very wel pleased, for he knewe right well that
it was not her husbād, & so he wyll not whether it were
best to speke or to hold his peace. And so thei lay so long
a bed tyl that her husband came and knocked at y doze
and by and by she perceyued y it was her husbāno and
than she wyll not what shyfte to make nor where she
should hyde hym, but bad hym y he should lye betwene
the bed & the wall & she toke y clothes and the couerlet
and cast the vpon him. And whā her husband was com
he bethought him that he had heard mo than one in hys
house, and whan that he sawe y bed so cast out of order,
he maruayled for it semed not as though there had layn
a sycke womā, but as thought there had ben a fyghtyng
& a battell for stones, for it lokyd moze lyker a bouldyng
trough, than a syck womans bed. Thā sayd her husbād
out thou myscheuous whoze, where is that knaue that
hath laine with the, yf I fynde him ye shall bothe repent
it by gods body, and wyth that he caught the couerlet
and the clothes in his hand, and than he sayd, how pro-
perly is this gere done, for hys bed she wed as though
here had lyne. ii. Than sayde the woman be my trouth
I am sure thou art dzoncke all redy, that thou rayle
st vpon me, and call me hoze, & thou knowest ryght
well that I am none, but alas I am to trew to suche a
Cocold and rebald as thou art, & I am soze that I haue
ben so long so trew to the, seynge that thou neuer foun-
de no dyshonest in me. Thys pooze man wyll not what
to

so saye whan that he hard his wyfe say suche wordes &
begon for to chyd hym so, yf he myght be glad that he
had no stripes. And so the good man (as it was best for
hym) helde his peace, and sayd mekely My gentill wife,
I beseeche thee be contente, for I loue not to chyd, and
he that is here aboue ones shal pay for all, but he mente
our lord that he wolde haue accompte of it ones. But
he that sat aboue in the chamber and heard al: he wende
that he had ment hym and that he had thretened hym.
Then sayd the yong man, my freende, it is ynough that
I paye the halfe, for he that lyeth beside the bedstede may
wel paye the other halfe, for he is as wel culpable as I.
Then had the man great maruaile and thought yf god
had spoke to hym, and he that laye besyde the bed wiste
not what to doo, for he knew nothyng of the other that
was aboue in the chamber, but he was bolde and rose
vp, and the other came downe out of the chamber. And
whan they saw eche other they went together fro thens
and none of them bothe that payde for theyr lyinge, nor
yet for theyr bedhyre, and thus the man was troubled,
and she made her husbnde belcve that the one was a
doctour of physyke the whych came to see her water, and
the other was a surgyn that came to let her bloud and
to chafe her baynes, and so she pleased her husband, for
al that she had made him cokcolde, yf pety trulles that
loue to cary stones: learne this pety concept agaynst yf
he sicke.

An olde decepte of
Vergilius.



Virgill was a very wyse and experte man, and
was a mayster of many dyuers sciences & whiche
(as some men saye) the deuyl had lerned him, and also
he was a wise man of counsell, in so much that & Em-
perour chose him to be one of the lordes of his counsell.
This Virgil dyd many maruayles with Necromancy
for he made a garden wherin were all maner of trees of
al scuyte and fruytes, & what tyme that he wolde: there
they found euermore ripe frute, fayre floures and seede.
And also there was in the garden all maner of byrdes.

E.1.

the

the Whyche longe nyght and daye. And this garden had
no inclosing but onely the light that shone ouer it, and
yet there could no body come in. Also he had made in
Rome an Image of great lyght, the which might not fail.
And they of Rome might not open nother doore nor win-
dow but they must nedes see the Image. And whosoer
had scene that ymage: y daye he should haue had no
pleasure for to haue deone the workes of the flesh, of
the which the women of Rome went and the wed Vir-
gilius, the which at last cast downe the Image, and thā
the women had their pleasure agayne. Also this Virgi-
lius had made in the middes of Rome to the profite of
the comon people, a lampe of glasse the which shone &
lyghted all Rome ouer and ouer, in so muche that there
was neuer so small a strete but it was as lyght of that
lampe as though there had ben two torches burnynge,
and some men say it stode well. lxx. yere. And not far
from thens in an other place he had made a man of co-
per wyth a bowe in his hande, poyntynge with hys A-
rro we to the Lampe. And so it fortunied vpon a tyme
the doughters of Rome wente a sportynge in an enes-
nyng, and there came one of the maydens of Rome the
whyche smote vppon the streynge of the bowe wyth her
finger, and so the arrowe spronge loose, and shot the lā-
pe in peeces, the whyche was great pite. And vpon an
other tyme Virgilius dyd put out all the fyre that was
in Rome, that no man could get fyre but onely at one
womans ars, the which had deceyued him, and none
coude lyght an others fyre, but that eche house muste
goe vppon the market place and fetch hys fyre, at
that womans ars. This Virgill for al that he was so
wyle, and a mayster of all sciences: yet not wythstand-
ynge

dyng he was deceyued of women. Upon a tyme he set
his loue vpon a fayne gentylwoman the whyche was
of noble progeny, and made suche meanes that it came
to her knowlege, and whan that she knewe that she be-
thought her howe she might deceyue hym, and than she
sayd to hym that it were very perylous for to begynne
suche a thyng, for a man cometh lyghtly in the bounde
of loue: but he can not come so lyghly out agayne. But
wellbeloued Virgyl for to please you and that ye may
haue your pleasure, so come to nyght to fore my howse
whan euery body is gone to slepe: and I wyll let downe
a basket out of the chamber wyndowe and there ye shal
lye in, and so I wyll drawe you vp in to my chamber, of
the which Virgyl was very gladd, and sayde that he
wolde doo so, whan it was nyght: Virgyl came to fore
this gentyl womans house, the whyche stode in the
market place and in the myddle of Rome. And so whan
that Virgyl was come: she let the basket downe to the
erthe, And Virgyl went and late in it, & than she drew
hym vp tyl that he came to the myddle of the howse, and
whan that he was .xl. foote from her wyndowe she made
the corde faste, and let hym hange so in the basket, and
sayde, now men shal see thy iniquyte, and howe thou
wouldest haue layne by me, and there he remayned han-
gynge styll in the basket tyl the next day to his reproue
before all men, the whyche he auenged afterward vpon
her. And thus was he deceyued to his vtter confusion.
And also Virgyl made to the profyte of the Romayns
(to thede that they myght haue shorte lawe & that euery
man myght in conyent knowe whether his cause we-
re trewe or false) by the craft of Necromancy a lyon of
brasse, and who that put his hand in the throte of the
C.ii. lyon

lyon, and sware that his cause was trewe, and good, & his othe beyng false lost his hande. And who that sware a trewe othe: Drewe his hand out agayne, without drede or perill. And so it fortunied vpon a time, that Ulysses sayd to hys wife that she had to doo with a gentilman, the whiche she forsoke, and sayde that it was not so, and sayde that she wolde take the lawe at the Lion, and so whan this was doone, and the day appoynted that she should be iudged by the Lion, and come to her answer: than she founde the meanes that the gentilman (her lover) was clothed in fooles clothinge, and so he went w her to the place where the Lion stood, and there in y presence of them all that were there: put her hand in the Lions throte, and there she did swere that she had no more to doo with that man that she was blamed for: than w the foole that stode there present, and so the woman drewe her hand out agayne without any hurt yet neuerthelesse Ulysses knew well that she had to doo with the man of the whiche she was suspect with. Then was Ulysses wrothe, and destroyed the Lion, in so muche that neuer after that day was no iustice doon with the Lion. Here may ye see how the mayster Virgilius that was so wise and so crafty in all thinges: and yet he was deceyued of a woman, ye of more than of one, as is reherced afore.

~ A new decepte doone
of late.



There was a lady beyonde y^e sca, which was a we:
do we. This lady had a fayre gētyll woman for
her chamberlen, that dyd lye with her, And it fortunēd
vpon a tyme that a lusty yonge gentylman did set hys
loue vpon this yonge woman, the which was the fay:
rest and y^e moste goodliest of stature y^e was in that coun:
trie, and she was so beautifull & so vertuous that she lay
by her lady, and the gentylman oftentimes did talke &
comen with this gentil woman, and opened his harte
and shewed to her all his intent, and spake so louingly
to her: that also her hert was set in the loue of him, and so
she consented to him to be redy at all tymes, y^e it should
please him, but they wist not how, nor by what meanes
that they myght come together. And so vpon a tyme she
came vnto the gentylman and sayd, ye know well that I
lye by my lady, the which is great honour to me, and I
may not leue her, except I should be viterly shamed and
yet I wolde well, that you had your desyre, and also I
wyl gladly be at your commaundement and pleasur in
all thinges that ye wil desyre of me, yf that we may doo
it secretlye, and also I wyl shewe you my mynde, & what
I will doo. My lady hath a litle dogge, as ye know wel
the whiche she loueth well, & must euer lye in her chāber
and to nighe I will locke it without the chamber, and
wyl leue the next chāber open, and whan that ye thynke
that my lady is to bed: come secretly into the chamber &
locke the chamber doore and there ye shall finde y^e lytle
dogge, the whiche knoweth you wel, & take hym by the
eares and shake him that he may cry loude, and whan
my lady shal heare him: she shall know the voyce, & than
incontinent she shall cause me to ryse, for to let y^e dogge
in, and thā I will come secretly to you, but I praye you

sayle not, for yf ye do: I wyl neuer speake wyth you a-
gayne. Than sayd the gentylman. O my moste trustye
and gracious louer I wyl thanke you hartely of your
gracious and louely wordes, & be you sure that I wyl
not fayle, and so the gentylman abode his tyme, & came
vnto y place that was appointed accordyng to his pro-
myse. And so the lyttell dogge thought to haue gone in
to the ladyes chāber as it was wont to doo, and for be-
cause that the chamber dooze was locked: he abode in y
chamber that was nexte vnto the ladyes. And so the la-
dy is gone to bedde, and her chamberlen wyth her, and
the lusty gentylman is come into the next chamber, and
went vpon hand and foote for to seke the dogge, and at
laste he founde hym, & hath made hym crye out a loude
and so the lady heard the dogge crye, and thought that
he wolde come in: & sayde to her gentylwoman the chā-
berlen that she should aryse and let the dogge in, for
me semes that he is in the nexte chamber, and she sayde
I wyl doo it gladly, and so she arose and came to the
dooze in her smocke, and the gentylmā came and mette
her, and whan that he sawe that she was so gracious,
and so goodly of person: he was so gladd that he losse
all hys power, and fayled, and it was not in hys power
to doo her sweetly, and groped her rounde brestes, and all
that he coude doo pertaynyng to loue, but the flesshely
oppracyon exceped, and so the gentylman returned a-
gayne wythout comforte and yet he wolde gladly haue
kept her: but she durst tary no lenger, and so the ladye
went her waye and shytted the dooze agayne, and the la-
dy demaunded her yf she had let in the dogge, and she
sayde nay, for she coude not fynde it. The lady sayde
Well let hym alone, and so the chamberlen was sore a-
grieved

grieved, but he tooke courage vnto hym and sayde, yf y
my louer came agayne for all y she is so fayre: I wolde
goue her better knowledge that I am a man, and so he
caught the dogge by the eares agayne, and made hym
for to crye, that the Lady heard it, and so the Lady cau
sed her chamberleyn for to ryse, and also the thyrde time
she arose and came for the dogge, but the poore gentyl
ma had nother power nor strength for to breke one spere
And whan that she saw that there wolde come nothing:
she went her way into her chamber, and he perceyued her
Than sayd the chamberlen for to recompence hym of
his great payne, and for to please the lady, alway thou
noughtye Ape as thou arte, for shall not come thyg
night in the house, thou foule yll fauoured beast, and
with that she dyd shyt the chamber dooze. And the ladye
demaunded to whome that she spake, and she sayde that
it was to the other dogge, the whiche hath doone me
great payne in seekinge of him, for he had hid him vnder
the benche, and whan that I had founde hym he wolde
not aryse, for all that I coulde doo to hym. I wolde
fayne haue had him in, but he wolde not ones lyfte vp
his head, and therfore I haue lefte him without, and so
she locked the dooze wth great spite to fore his face.
The Ladye sayd my daughter that is well doone. And
thus was the gentylman deceyued.

☛ A deceyt how that Samp
son was deceyued of
his wife.



Sampson being a strong yonge mā came to Thā-
 nata where that he sawe one of the daughters of
 the phyllystins, the which he despyed to haue to his wife.
 And whan that he came tofore the Wynyarde of the Lo-
 re: there came a yonge Lyon runnyng to hym, which he
 kylled. And in short tyme after as he came from his fa-
 ther and mother: it fortunied that he came agayne to the
 place where that he had killed thys Lyon, & so he found
 in the mouth of the Lion a warme of Bees. And whā
 that his wedding should be: there came .xxx. yonglynges

to his feast. And Sampson sayd to them I will gyue to
 you a ryddle, and yf that ye can asoyle it win. vii. dayes
 after my feast: I wyl gyue to you. xxx. silke poyntes, and
 as many Cotes, and yf chat ye assoyle not my ryddle: ye
 shall lese as muche. Than sayd the ponglynges shew to
 vs your ryddle. Than sayd Sampson, of the eter is mye
 gone out, and of the stronge is come sweetnes. And so
 they could not assoile that riddle, & than they cam to his
 wyfe and sayd, despyze your husband, that he shew to you
 the ryddle, & what it sygnifyeth. And if that ye wyl not
 we wyl set thy house and thy fathers in fyre. And than
 she went to her husband Sampson weping and making
 her mone to hym, and sayd I praye you shew to me the
 solucyon of the ryddle, and what ye meane wyth all, or
 els I saye that ye loue me not. Sampson answered and
 sayd I wolde not geue nother father nor mother to know
 what it ment, and should I tell it you? And so his wyfe
 wept and made great lamentacyon. vii. dayes after the
 feast of theyr weddyng. And vpon the seuenth daye: she
 croubled Sampson so sore, & he shewedit her, and she forth
 with sheweth it to y pongelinges, y which sayd to Sāp-
 son, what is sweeter than hony, & what is stronger than
 a Lyon. Than sayd Sampson, yf my freshe calfe had not
 ben: ye had not soyled my ryddle. Here ye may see how
 Sampson was deceyued through y wepyng & lamenta-
 tion of a womā. And after y Sampson came to his Wyfe
 for to haue done as he was wont to do, which his father
 had forbode him, & sayd to Sāpson I had whent ye wold
 haue kyled her, & therfore I haue betake her to another
 husband. Thā was Sampson wroth & did great mischef
 to the philistines And so the philistynes seeing that Sāp-
 sons wyfe was the causer of that myschef: thā went the
 philistines

philistens and see her fathers house in fyre (þ father and
the doughter beyng in the house) and so dyd burne them
both. ¶ And after þ he entercelye loued a woman that
dwelt in the baly of Sozeth, whose name was Dalida.
And so the cheefe hed prince of the Phyllystens came to
Dalida and sayd we requyre thee that thou wylt deceyue
Sampson, and demaunde of hym wherein that the
strength of Sāpson is, to the ende that we may cōquere
him. And if that ye doo it: eche of vs shal giue to you a.c
M. syluer pengs. And so Dalida sought the occasion to
deceyue him, and Sampson caused him selfe .iii. times
to be bounde througħ þ pcticion of Dalida w. iii. maner
of bandes, but euer moze he brake þ bandes & ouer cam
hys enemyes .iii. tymes. And whan þ Dalida had seene
al thys: she came to Sampson w. sweet flaterynge woꝝ-
des and sayde, O my dere beloued Sāpson ye saye that
ye doo loue me and your hart thinketh it not, for ye haue
denyed to me. vi. tymes, for ye wolde not shew me where
that your strength resteth. And so she troubled Sampson
many a day vnto the tyme that she brought him to his
death. And so at last Sampson shewed his wife þ truth
& sayd, yf my hed were shauē: than were al my strength
and power gon. Than Dalida sent worde to the Phyl-
lystens, and she caused Sampson for to slepe in her lap,
and she called to her a barbour, and he did shauē of all þ
here of Sampsons head, & than she thrust hym from her
and hys power and myght was gone from hym. And
than cryed Dalida, Sampson Sampson, the philistens
ben come vpon thee. Thā he arose out of his slepe & was
incontynent as a prisioner, & his eyes were put out and
so by that meanes he was killed. Now beholde ye men,
bothe yonge and olde, howe that the stronge Samp-
son

son was deceyued of the false woman Dalida, who is þ
may beleue the sweet and flaterpng wordes and the bite
ter mournyng and weepnyng of women,

☞ A newe deceyte do one of late.



There was a gintylman þ whiche was very bolde in
the feates of warres, and entycrely loued a yonge
sayre Lady, and had so oftentimes cōmunycacyon
with her: that she consented to hym in all thynges that
F.ii. he

he wolde desyre of her. And whā þ he had doone hys will
a certayne time with her: thā went he into spayne with
his lorde for to keep warre, and in the meane while þ he
was absēt: his louer was married to an olde knyght the
which knew right wel þ other mā, but this olde knyght
knew not that he was his wifes paramour, but at l-
it cam to his knowledge, of þ which he was not wel cō-
tent. And so it fortunēd þ in short time after, her para-
mour came home againe, & by chaūce in an evening cam
to þ castell where þ his sweeting was, & the olde knyght
made him good chere, for he was of his olde acquain-
taunce, but it was half against his hert. And in þ meane
while þ the olde knyght went about for to make al thin-
ges redre for to welcome his gest wal: he sat and talked
with his louer (his pretty foole þ he was wot for to play
wall) and desired of her for to haue the olde frendship þ
he was wont to haue in tyme past er that she was wed-
ded: she denyed hym & sayd that it was not possyble for
to haue place & tyme suffycient. Than sayde her gest. O
my dere beloued othis, yf it please you ye may doo me sō
freendshyp, for your husband shall know nothyng ther
of, whā that he is a bed and a slepe that ye come and by-
sit me in my chamber, or in any other place where that it
shall please you, or yf ye please I will come to you, thē
she sayd it may not be so, for my husband is very soone
awake, and I should haue to great dyede and sorow, &
also he neuer waketh, but he doth folle after me, and whā
that he misteth me: than he wyll thinke what there is to
doo. Thā he demaūded, what doth he more: Ahoze quod
she: nothing, but turneth him agayn, for yf he come ones
in a moneth that is moch to him, for it is but folly for to
fable with you, for yf it came I wolde take it wyth all
my

my harte. Than sayde he, I beseeche thee my Sweete loue
make it so that I may lye with thee to night. Than she
answered and sayd, I know a remedy, I haue a seruing
mayde to the whiche I wyll shew my secrete, and with
her I wyll take counsell. And so incontinent she called
her and sayd, my beloued mayde, ye must now helpe me
in a matter, for I trust you best for to kepe my pryncesse,
Thā sayd the mayde, what y^e shall please you I wyll be
glad for to doo. Thā sayd her lady to her. This knight
I loue aboue all mē, and I wolde be soz^e that he should
departe from hens, except I had spokē pryncesse wth hym
and it is not possible that I may speke secretly with him
wout that ye wyl be so good as to kepe my place by my
husband in my bed this night, for it is his custom whā y^e
he waketh to feele after me, and than he layeth hym to
sleepe agayne, but I praye what so euer ye doo ye maye
not speake one worde, but suffre all that he doth to you
for I knowe of a very certayne that ye shal be without
sorrow or drede, for any thing that my husband thy mas-
ter will doo. Than sayd the yonge lusty mayden to her
lady, your commaundement I wyll be glad to doo it.
So soone as they had suppe: they went all and walked
abrode, and the lady shewd her paramour how that her
mayde should kepe her place by her husband for y^e night
of the which the knight was maruaylous glad. And so
after that whā they had dronke, they wente all to bed
and the knight went into his chamber where y^e he should
lye, the which was gorgeously orderyed, and there the
table was beset with suckettes, confectes, & other cost-
ly thynges, and of the best wyne that might be got. And
so incontinently the olde knyght and his lady hath both
vnclothed them, and went to bed, and my lady dyd put

out the candell, and the mayde stode preuely by the bed
syde, and when the candell was out: she went to bed to
her mayster, & so lay with hym, & my lady went inconty-
nent to hym & abode her comynge, and about .iii. a
clocke afore day: the old knyght dyd turne hym, and he
groped for hys wyfe, & thought y she had layne by him
& so layde his hande vpon her brestes, & he felt that they
were harde and rounde, & thā incontynent he knew y it
was not hys wyfe, for her brestes were not so round, nor
so hard. Thā he tooke her i his armes & gaue her a kisse
w that y longed therto. All hys besynes was hard for
hym, for she was a mayde. And so the poore mayd durst
not speke one worde, for sauynge of her maysters ho-
nestie, whā this was doone: he begā to call to hym that
lay by hys wyfe, & sayd, how how, syr knyght of Whens
be ye: speke once to me: The knyght hearyng this: was
soze amased, & my lady was whole agast, but they helde
theyr peace. Thā he called agayne, howe my gost where
be ye: speke to me: Than sayd the knyght what is your
Wyll syr: Than sayd he a ha syr: I Wyll euer be glad of
this exchaunge, the knyght sayd what exchaunge good
syr: Mary for an olde hooze, to haue a yōg proper mayd
for so haue ye serued me of the which I thanke you, and
so this gest w his wyfe knew not what to say. And also
y poore mayd was whole ashamed, as wel for y disho-
nestie of her lady, as for her owne dishonestie & mayden-
hode, the whyche she had lost so pyteously, & so departed
from thens, & after hath wept bytterly therfore, and the
straunge knyght is departed from thence wout any thā-
kes geuynge to any bodie, nor sayde not once adewe, but
left the lady in great sorowe and drede, & so the straunge
knyght came neuer there after that, but howe that the
lady

lady dyd, and what chaunce she had: of that I had no th-
 dinges, and therfore I can wyte no more therof.

☞ An olde deceyte doone in olde tyme.



Hercules the mozt hye champpyon, was a man of
 greate renowne, and was the bastarde of kyng
 Jupiter, and of the Queene Alcumena. This Hercules
 tohan that he laye yet in the cradle: he strageled & killed
 two great serpentis, y^e wolde haue killed him, y^e which
 bys

his stepmother Juno had brought to hym. This Hercules
legg overcame a myghty great Greke, & which was called
Phylotes, & whiche afterward became Hercules servaunt
And throughe the informacion of Juno hys stepmother
(the whiche wolde wcl that he had ben dead) went into a
forest o: heth of Arcady, & there he overcame. iii. Lyons
w great power & strength. Thys Hercules toke his jour-
ney into the cytie of Moloſen, & fetched agayne the fayre
Proserpyna Diphæus wyfe, the whiche kyng Pluto had
stolen, and he fought against the porter Cerberus, whiche
was a myghty great Greke, but Hercules overcame him
and bound him hand and fote, and overcame. iii. Cyclo-
pens of Moloſyn, the whiche wolde have taken Prose-
rpina from him. This Hercules overcame the great mo-
ster of Ierne, the vpper part lyke a mā, and nether parte
lyke a serpent, by the whiche moster no man myght passe
wout that he went w. iii. C. or mo strong men of armes
And his foode was the flesch of mē and chervith he lused
And he overcame the kyng Lacus, the whiche was a fers
cruunt, and oppressed all the people of that countrey, and
vpon a nyght he hadde stolen a waye Hercules Oren in
Italpe, and Lacus had tyed them taylor to taylor, and so
brought them into the caue wher that he dwelt, so thend
that they should not fynd & footyng of the, for & footyng
of the oren did the we alwayes fro the caue ward where
that he dwelt. Also he conquered the grete monster of the
sea afore Trope, the whiche they must have gyuen every
day for his dynet a mare a shepe, and & gyven so long
till the lot fell vpon the kynges daughter, the whiche he
delivered, and subdued the grete monster, and delivered
the Cytye of Trope, and also he was a grete iuster, for
where that he heard & there were any grete lordes, or

kinge that was a tyrant, or an oppresser of the people:
ether wolde he go, and auētur his life, and pursue the
to death. Ha good lord yf y an infydell hath doone suche
thynges (y which had no hope of y lyfe eternal) through
loue of iustyce, how muche the more should euery chryste
lord fyght for the trewe iustyce, and that came to eralt,
the which knoweth wel the great rewarde that is promys
sed them of the lord celestyall: ¶ Upon a tyme Hercu
les tooke hys iourney towarde hys owne countrey, of
y conien wyth his wyfe Megera, and her hand mayde
And also he came into the lande of Cassalian where that
he must passe ouer the water wyth the shyppe, and the
shyppe was so lyttel that it coulde not cary the all ouer
at ones, and so Hercules remayned and wente not ouer
wyth the shyppe, and the fery man behelde Dianira, and
whan they came to londe: the fery man tooke Hercules
wyfe and wolde haue runne a waye wyth her, and Her
cules seying that: tooke his bowe and shot ouer the wa
ter towarde Nessum the fery man, and shot the arowe
in Nessums syde, in so muche that he felt that he muste
dy, and than he sayd to Dianira. Ye be a fayre woman,
& therfore I require you take compassion vpon me, for
your husband Hercules is not trewe, for he loueth other
beside you. Holde take this box for therin is such a thing
that whan that ye anoynt ther wyth his sherte, and that
he put it vpon his body: than shall all the straunge loue
departe from hym. And vpon a tyme Hercules subdued
the kynge Pyrcus, the which had many doughters, and
amonge them there was one that was the fayrest, the
whiche he entperly loued aboue all the other and her na
me was Pole, and Hercules sayd to her, Pole take me
as your frend, for so must it be, for the goddes haue giue

to me this chaunce. And whan that pole herde this that
she must doo him freendship, the whych had oppressed &
conquered her father, than fell pole in a wounde and
in great sorow. And than Hercules betooke pole in the
keeping of .xii. men, that she should not escape him. And
Hercules despyred her that she wolde be his wyfe, the whi-
che at last she consented, and so Hercules lay by her and
accomplished hys pleasure so longe with her that he ho-
ly forgot his wife Dianira. Dianira hearde of this & so
she wrote a letter to hym, remembryng him of y great loue
that was wonte to be betwene them, and to knowe yf
that should be so lost and forgotten, and that he, the whi-
che all the worlde dyd drede, wolde so suffre hym selfe to
be overcome of a strange woman. And whan Hercules
had red this letter he was not well content and was
yll apayde therof, in so muche y none durst come by him
nor also the fayre pole. And so Hercules beyng in he-
uy fantasy, deuyled hym selfe how he myght best forged
the fayre pole, and so he tooke his way and Journey to
the mounte Othea on pilgrimage, and for to doo Sa-
cryfice to the God Appollo, and in the way met wyth hi
Lucas chamberlyn of Dianira, and whan that Dia-
nira knewe that, than she tooke one of Hercules sher-
tes, the whiche was overstryken wyth the popson that
Pellus had geuen to her and sente it to Hercules, for to
put on, knowing no other wyse but that the straunge loue
should there with haue departed from hym, as Pellus
made her to beleue. And than Hercules had made a
great fyre, for to doo sacryfice vnto the God Appollo w-
an harte that Hercules had taken runnyng. And Lucas
gaue to him the sherte, and for because that he swet so
soze throughe the great anguish & harn sorowe he tooke
the

the shirt of Lucas and put it on, and whan that the shirt
was warme vpon him, it cleued so fast to his body, and
he felte suche great payne that he wyfte not what to doo
and wolde haue drawen of the shirt agayne, but he could
not but dye wth it of by great peces from his bodye wth
the skinne and the flesshe to the bone, in suche wyse that
one myght haue sene his bowelles. And so hercules saw
and knew well that he muste dye, than hercules sayde
to Phyletes tell Pole and all her freendes (With habun-
dauce of teres) of the myserable death of hercules. Thā
Wayled Pole so bytterly that her hart did brast, and died
for sorowe. whan that Dianira heard tell of the deathe
of hercules, and how that it was through the sherte the
whiche she had sent him. she tooke a knife and kilde her
selfe for sorowe. And thus was the valyaunt hercules
shamefully deceyued of a woman, neuerthelesse it was
without the knowledge of the woman, though that the
woman was the causer therof.

¶ A new deceyte of late doone in
the Citie of Tours.

G.ii.





In the Cytie of toures there was a marchaunte
of gr^eat power, the Whyche had desired vpon a
fryday his parson & other mo of his louers and
freendes to dyne wth hym & had promysed them a
certayne great fische, the whyche was called a Wyke, and
cost him two shyllinges, besyde the other smal fysshes, as
Larpes, Bemes and pikerell, and other suche smal fis-
shes. This marchautes Wyfe loued wel a certayne frere
& whan the husbande had brought home the Wyke, hys
wyfe toke it priuely & sent it to the frere, by a Coblers
wyfe, the Whyche knew all her secretes, and tolde her
she

4
She should shew the frere, that she wolde come y^e nyght
and make mery wyth him, and remayne wyth him all
that nyght & helpe for to eate the Pyke. Than was the
frere maruelous glad and sayde, yf there be anye good
wyne for to get for money I will prouide vs some, & we
wyl teach the Pyke for to swime therein, Than went the
good frere musyng in hym selfe and thought howe that
he wolde cherishe this marchautes wyfe. And about .xii.
a clocke the good man came home with his gesses, the
whiche he had desired for to eate of the Pyke, & brought
them into the kitchyn for to see the great pyke y^e he had
bought, & sayd to his wyfe shew to my gesses what a
great pyke that I haue bought. what Pyke sayde hys
wyfe: Mary sayde he the great Pyke that I sente home
wyth the other fysshes. The good wyfe sayde y^e she had
seene no Pyke, I thynke y^e ye dreme, for heere is a great
carpe .ii. pykerels and .iiii. Bemes, with other ryuer
fysshes, but as for the pyke, I haue not seene, why (said
her husband) weene ye that I dreme: Than sayd the per-
son and the other gesses we beleue that is not so for ye
be very suttell and deceptfull. Than sayde hys wyfe by
my trouth, I suppose that he mocked wyth you, for I
haue seene no pyke of all this yere, and therfore I thinke
that he had dreamed of a pyke. Than sayd the good man
I promyse you, it shal be a dere pyke for you. And so he
tooke a staffe and wolde haue beaten hys wyfe, but hys
gesses tooke hym from her wiche force, and dyd as much
as they could, for to make the peace, & went from thence
wyth the person for to make mery. And than hys wyfe
desyred one of her neyghbours (a yong widow) to dyne
with her, and whan she was com to her she sayd, O my
beloued neighbour I besech you doo one thyng for me,

G.iii.

and

and I will rewarde you well therfore. Than sayde
the wedow what soeuer please you I wyl be glad for to
doo. Than sayde that woman, my husbände is marue
lous hote vpon his besynes, for he hath troubled me so
much the nyght past, that I should not be able to abyde
it this nyght, and therfore I requyre you hartly that ye
wyl doo so muche as to kepe my place to nyght, y^e whi
che the widow consented gladly. And so whan the good
man had dined he went preuely & got him sū rodde, whi
che he layde at his beddes fecte, for ther w^h he wolde haue
chastised his wyfe in the nyght as he was wont to doo,
for she know well her husbādes minde, for he cam not
home to supper, but abode so longe out tyll he thought y^e
his wyfe were to bed. But she caused her neyboure to vne
clothe her & to kepe her place for her for that night and
cōmaunded her that whan her husband cam home y^e she
should not speake to hym, and his wyfe put out al y^e fire
y^e was in the house. And whā this was doone she cōmaū
did her neyboure, y^e as soone as her husbād did rylse in y^e
mornig y^e she should go her way home to her owne house
which she dyd promyse so for to doo. And than went his
good wyfe to the graye freres closter for to helpe to cate
the good Pike wyth the frere, lyke as she had sente hym
worde, and for to fet her pardon, lyke as she was wont
to doo, and so made good there and dronke the wyne me
rely with the frere, And so whan it was nyght her hus
bāde came home and thought to haue lyght a candell,
but he found no fyre, he seyng that went preuely to bed,
and slept almoste tyll it was day lyght, and thā he arose
preuely & tooke the rodde & cast vp the cloth & did bete
his neyboure y^e the bloud rā downe of all sides. But his
pooze neyboure durst not speke one word. And so at last

he let her alone and wente hys Waye out . And than the
poore Wedowe (hys neyghboure) arose vp and went her
Way home to her owne house al morning, and complay-
nyng of her myschaunce, and cursed her neyghbour, and
the time that euer she came there. And in shorc time after
came his Wyfe home from y^e fryers, and cam in her chā-
ber & sawe y^e it was all to be strawed wth the roddes, and
saw y^e the shetes were all bloudy, & thā she perceiued wel
y^e her neyghbour had suffered penaunce. And incontinent
she wēt & made y^e chāber cleane, and made her bed & laide
on cleane payre of shetes, and wēt to bed, & laye theretyl
her husband came home, & whā y^e he came in y^e chāber he
foude his wife a bed fast a slepe & said, ha lady wyl ye not
arise yet, why (sayd she) is it day I wyl not that ye were
vp for I laye and dreamed, and that hath caused me for
to lye so longe a bed. I beleue y^e ye dreamed of the Dyke,
for I gaue you a good remēbraūce therof. Than said his
Wyfe, I haue no rememibraūce of you nor of the Dyke.
Than said he, is it al redy forgothē, how so sayd his wife,
who should remēber dreames. Than sayd her husbāde
is that a dreame, for to bete a handfull of roddes to pe-
ces vpon chy body, And also I wote wel that the shetes
wyl testify whether it be so or not. Than sayd his wife,
I wote not what ye meane, but I wote wel that ye gaue
me a frēdly kylle to day morning and so left me sleping.
Than sayd her husband, I maruaile of that, let me see
the shetes, and than she shewed to him the cleane shetes
that she had layde newe vpon the bed, and shewed her
naked body all hole and cleane, and so whā her hus-
band sawe that the shetes were cleane, and her body hole
he wyl not what to say, and so he was ful of fātasyes
and sayd of a truth (wyfe) I had went y^e I had beten you
Well

Well to day mournynge, but I see well it is not so, and
therfore I wote not what to say. Than sayd hys Wyfe
put that fantasyes out of your minde, for ye may se that
ye haue not touched me, for ye haue dremed, lyke as ye
dremed yesterday of the Wyke. Than sayde her husband
Nowe I know well that ye sayd the truthe, and there-
fore I beseeche you for the loue of God forgue it me, for
now I know well that I sayd not the cruth yesterday of
the Wyke. And mooste of all I am ashamed that I spoke
so to you in the presence of the worshipfull men, & spe-
cyally in the presence of our parson, and therfore I re-
quyrethes forgyue it me. And than his Wyfe sayd I for-
giue you gladly, but I praye you be not so hasty another
tyme. Than sayd he, My beloued wyfe it shall neuer be
so more. And so what that he heard or saw after that: he
thought all that he had dremed of it. And thus was the
good man deceyued of hys Wyfe, and thought that he
had dremed of the Wyke. And she wente and made good
chere wyth this frere, and euenynges and moynynges
they were together. And this marchaunt man was a li-
tle Ialouse. And whan he spoke a worde to his wyfe:
Than sayde she peace foole thou dremest of the Wyke.
And so thys Marchaunt was deceyued of hys Wyfe
in deed.

¶ In olde deceyte doone in olde tyme.





That tyme when David was departed out of the
 worlde: than was Salomon his sone made king
 of Israell in his fathers stede, and he put his trust in pha
 rao the king of Egipt and tooke his daughter, and brou
 ght her into the Cytie of David. Upon a tyme Salomō
 made sacrifice and offered to Gybeon .a. M. offeringes
 or sacryfyces, that were burned, And thā our lord made
 reuelacion to him in his slepe and sayd. Aske what thou
 wilt, I wil giue it to thee. Than sayd Salomon, I am
 yet but yonge, and I know not my selfe whiche is good
 or yll, and Salomon thy seruaunt requyrez of y a woro
 thy

thy hert, that he may know thy people, and vnderstand
What is good and yll. Then sayd our lord for as muche
as ye haue not desyred longe lyfe, nor ryches nor youre
enemyes euyl fare, but for a skylfull perseueraunce: there-
fore I geue to thee according to thy wordes and desyre,
first a skilful heart, in so muche that none lyke vnto thee
hath not bene to fore thee, nor after thee shal none aryse
that shal haue suche a wyte as thou hast. And also I giue
to thee that, that thou hast not desired, that is riches and
honour, that there hath bene none amonge the kynges
lyke vnto thee. And Salomon buylded wel. xx. yere vpon
the house of god, and of the house of the king, and he had
thereto. lxx. m. laboryng men y^e bare the burthens, and. lxxx.
M. workemen that layd stones and suche other offices,
and. iii. M. and. iiii. C. rulers & ouerseers to gouerne the
workemen. And the kyng Salomon was greater in ry-
ches & in wysedome than were al the kynges that were
vpon earth. And all the people of the world desyred for
to see Salomon, and for to heare of his wysdom that
God had gauen to hym, and euery man brought to hym
honorable gyfts, as golde, syluer, iewelles, and costly
raiment, harneys, and sweet smelling herbes. and horses
and mules. But Salomon loued well ouerlondysh wo-
men, as the daughter of Pharaos, the Moabytes, the A-
monytes, and the Edomytes, the which the lord of Is-
rael had forboden sayng beware go not to them and let
them not come to thee for of a surety theyr wyll cause thee
to bowe thy heart to theyr god And yet Salomon wente
to them with great loue. And he had. vii. C. women to
hys wyues, and. iii. C. concubines, and his wyues caused
him to applie his hert to straunge goddes, in so muche y^e
his hert could not be whole wth the lord god, as y^e hert of
hys

his father Dauid was, And so Salomon & Amroche
 went to the god of sydon, and to Melcon the God of the
 Amonytes, and he builded a house Chamos the God of
 the Moabytes, vpon the mount y^e lyeth before Jerusa-
 lem, and Moloch god of the Amonites, and Salomon
 caused all hys outlandyshe Wyues to offre frankensce
 to they^r god. And therfore god tooke wrathe vpon hym
 and departed his kyngdom. Now behold how the most
 wysest Salomon was deceyued of the women, & how
 his hert was separated from the lord God. Alas who
 may withstand the deceyte, the flatteryng, & the weeping
 of women.



**A new receypte boon of late
at Danswyke in Bruse.**

A Don a tyme it fortunyd in the worthy Cytye of
Danswyke: that two yonge marchauntz went
walkyng together towarde a place called Artus gar-
deyn, whiche stode in the market place, & as they wete
walkyng: there came a yonge lusty fayre gentyll woman
the whiche met them, and her mayde waytyng vpon her
for they came fro the church, and so one of the yong mē
behelde the gentyl woman, and sayd, without aduysmē
to his companion, by my trowth there goeth a fayre wo-
mā by vs, yf that I myght lye one nyght by her, I wolde
spend .i. nobles, the mayde (hearinge þe worde) sayd vnto
her mastres, herken mastres what one of those men
sayth, one of the men that passeth by vs sayd to his com-
panion that he wolde giue .i. nobles that he myght lye
one night with you. The wyfe turned and looked back
warde, and sawe that he was a lusty yonge man, & sayde
vnto her mayde, abyde a litle tyll he be departed fro his
fellow, & than aske him if it please him to come to night
to our house, he shal be welcōme, and yet for all that her
husband was in the strete. The mayde dyd lyke as her
mastres had commaunded her, and she wente vnto the
yonge marchaunt whan he was departed fro his fellow
and sayd to him gentyll yonge man wylle ye yet abyde by
the wordes that ye sayde whan the gentyll woman cam
by you: yes sayd þe yonge marchaunt yet wylle I abyde by
my worde yf I may obtayne my purpose of that womā.
Than sayde the mayde, yf it please you to obtayne your
purpose: thā come to nyght to her house whan the clocke
hath smytten .vii. For it is þe maner in Danswyke, that
the moste part of all the marchaunt men haue supped

at. vii. a clocke, and than they goe to Artus gardeyn to
drynke and there to take theyr recreacyon, and somtyme
to make bargayns wyth theyr marchandise, so that it is
sometyme late in the nyght ere that they com home. And
thus went this gentyl womans husband to Artus gar-
deyn at. vii. of the clocke after supper, and than the yong
marchaunt came home to the wyfe of the house, and she
brought hym aboue in a fayre chambze, where she had
arayed a costely bed after the goodlyest maner, and there
they embrased eche other with many a freendly kysse, and
there was geuen the earnest peny vpon theyr marchaun-
dise. And in short tyme after the yonge man dyd gyue
her the .i. nobles wherof she sente one of them for wine
and layde a way the residue of the money and kept it se-
cretly, and than they dronke the wyne and made good
chere, and one began to thother lyke as Venus children
should doo, and so they went to bed together, and there
she tooke him in her armes wyth great loue: sekynge the
floures of nature in the swete rose gardeyne: and in the
meane whyle the mayde lay looking out at the window
for a spyre, waytynge the comynge of her mayster, as her
maistres had commaunded her. For she knew well of the
marchaundise that was made betwene the marchaunt
and her maistres. ¶ And so whan the clocke smote. xi. in
the nyght: than came her mayster home, and incontynēt
the mayde perceyued him and ran to her maistres, whi-
che by and by cam downe and went to bed in her owne
chambze, and whan her husbände came to his chamber:
his wyfe laye and routed as though she had ben fast a
slepe, and so he put of his clothes and wēt to bed to his
wyfe, and she spake in her slepe (as he thought) & sayde,
alas husbände why doo ye awake me so hastily out of

my slepe I laye and slepte sweetlye, yett sayde her hus-
band, yett knowe well that I muste come to bed, and
so in short tyme after she longed for to haue bene aboue
agayne, for to reue the good pastauce, & so she founde
a subtile meanes for to begyle her husband & sayd, good
husband I haue so greates luste to slepe, that I wote not
what to doo, and also I haue suche a rumbling in my
bely, that I muste nedes goe to the preuy house, & I am
afraid that I should fall aslepe vpon the preuy, & than
she arose vp from her husbände, & dyd set before the bed
a basyn and a stycke in it, and sayd my beste beloued hus-
band, yf that I fall aslepe vpon the preuy: I praye you
than knocke vpon the basyn that I maye wyth the noyse
therof awake. And her husbände promysed her that he
wolde doo her requeste, and than she went agayne aboue
where she was ioyfully receyued, for he thought it very
longe tyll that she came and her husband had dronke wel
in so much, that incontynent he fell aslepe, and slept til
in the moynynge at, iiii. a clocke, and than he starte out
of his slepe & groped rounde a bouthe the bed: but he found
not his wyfe, of the whiche he was afraid and lepe from
the bed and smote vpon the basyn in so much that incont-
inent his wyfe came runnyng and made her complaint
& sayd, alas good husband, I haue suffered verye greates
colde, for I haue sit all this nyght sleaping there vpon
the preuy, and I drede for that I shall get a great syco-
kenes after this colde. And so she went to bed to her hus-
bände and lay there tyl it was fyue of the clocke in the
moynynge. And than arose her husband for to go heare
masse, and for to doo suche thynges as he had for to doo.
And whan that her husband was gone out, she wente
incontynent aboue to her other louer, and there she re-
maye

mayned tyll that the clocke smote. viii. for than it was
lefull for the for to arysle and to departe without þ know-
ledge of any body sayng only the mayde. And so it for-
tuned whan þ they were departed this yong marchaunt
wolde take his iourney towarde his house, that was in
the cytie of Lubeck in Saxo and tooke his horse & went
thetherwardes. And vpon the same daye thys womans
husbande rode out of the citie of Danſwyke towarde þ
citie of Lubecke & so whan that he had ryden a while vpon
his iourney: he looked vp and saw a horseman ryde
afoze hym, and whan that he had seene hym: he desired
gladly for to haue company, and rode the faster tyll that
he had ouer taken the other man that rode afoze hym,
and so whan he had ouertaken hym they rode together,
and than the elder mā sayd to the yonge Marchaunt I
pray you tell me some newes or els of your chaunces
for to shorte our way withall. Than sayde the yonge
marchaunt, there is no chaunce fortunēd to me and ther-
fore I can tell none. Than sayd the marchaunt I haue
maruayle of that, for in þ citie of Danſwyke the yonge
marchaunt men get many straunge chaunces, for the mar-
chaunces be comenly olde men, and haue for the moſte
parte yonge lussy wyues the whyche haue moze woꝝke
in theyr shoppes than their husbandes may well awaye
with all, in so muche that they boꝝowe nowē and
than a lofe of you or of such other. . Than sayd the mar-
chaunt by cockes bones, there is a pretty chaunce for-
tuned to me of late of a Marchauntes wyfe, and so he vp
and tolde him al the stoꝝ of the woman and how it was
brought to passe, and of the mayde, & of the bason, lyke
as is expꝛessed afoze. The good man heard hym tell his
tale and was not well contente therof in hys mynde
and

and thought in him selfe, that al those thinges were fortunate to him selfe, but he laught therewith. And whan that they had ryden a lyttel forther: the marchaant helde styll wyth his horse, and sayd, alas it is wrong with me for I shoulde ryde to Lubecke for money, & I haue forgotte my principall oblygacyō & I shoulde requyre my money withall, & therfore I must nedes recurne homewardes agayne, & yf ye haue no great busynes: I requyre you that ye wyl bere me compayne to my house, and I wyl pay for your costes and for your horse, and make you & best chere that I can. Thā sayd the yong marchaunt, yf I can doo you any pleasure: I wyl be glad to be at your commaundemēt. And so they tooke theyr iourney backwarde agayne and rode home, and came in at the backe syde of the marchauntes house, and came in at the horse stable, so & the yonge man knew not the house, and than they went forth into the house, where as they founde & good wyfe sittynge, the whiche he behelde & knew wel in so muche that he was astonyed and sayde to hym selfe. Alas what haue I doone, for it is not wel now, but yf I had kept my tethe before my tongue: thā had I done wel but there is no remedy it is doone, & that & is sayd: can not be called agayn, for it is sayd, and so must it be. And whan that they were wyth the wyfe: than sayd her husband, wyfe take money and go to market & bye vs some good meat, for I bring heere with me a good freend, & which I wyl make good chere to nyght. But god knoweth & wyfe was not well content wth that freend to com in such maner. But not wstanding & wyfe must obey & commaundement of her husband. And whan it was nyght: the meate was redy, then the good man tooke his gess and set them downe at the table, and there they were well

but the Wyfe went about the house and can not to sup-
per, in so muche þ her husbände was amoued wryth her
and bad her that she shoulde come and syt by them, the
whiche she did at þ last, & was sore ashamed. The good
man made his gæst the best chere þ he coulde: and dronke
eche to other plenty of wyne. And so whan that the sup-
per was doone and the mete taken from the table: than
he commaunded bys seruaunte and one of the maydens
to depart out of the chamber, and the other mayde that
knewe of the bargayne: remayned styll in the chamber,
and than he caused the chamber dooze to be locked, and
sayd wryth a loude voyce, *Is here no honesty: for he that
byteth his nose of, shameth his face, and so it is wryth
me, for yf I shame my wyfe: I shame my selfe.* And than
he sayd to his wife. *My wyfe ye be to costly for to be my
wyfe, yf ye cā wyne in one night. i. nobles: for than wold
I hastely or in short tyme spend al my goodes.* The wife
sayd that is not true, than was her husbānd angry and
sayd. *Go thy wayes and fetch me hyther the money, for
God hath sent me ynoughe, & also I wyll haue no suche
money in my house.* Than the wyfe went wryth a moued
mynde, and did fetch the money and layd it tofore her
husbānd vpon the table, and he toke it and told it, and
there was. xlii. nobles. And than he demaunded the yōg
man sayinge, *is this thy money: no* sayd the yōng man
but it was once my money. Than sayd his hoste, put it
in thy purse. Than the hoste had yet some syluer money
that was remainig of the noble that was chaunged for
the wine. And than sayd the host, yet not wistandynge the
labour must be payd, what shall I gyue the wyfe for her
labour? Than sayd the yōng man myne host that I put
to your good iudgement. Than sayd the hoste, *she shall
I. i. haue*

haue for her parte a payre of shooes and a payre of
Slyppers, and the mayde that kepte the watche
shall haue a payre of slyppers, and the mynstrell that
playde vpon the basyn at the lockynge shall haue for hys
parte a pot of wyne. And so the host gaue eche hys mo-
ney the whiche they must receyue. And than John John
the host that was mynstrell gaue hys parte fyrst of al &
sent for the Wyne and dronke and made good chere, and
that that yet remayned of hys money: he gaue it agayne
to the yonge man & sayde, holde take thys & make good
chere ther wyth to nyght, and goe to morowe where it
please you, I requyre you that ye come heere no more.
And yf ye haue founde anye good fortun: I praye you
be secrete of yout tounge and make no wordes of it, for
that yf is doone: must so remayne for there is none other
remedy. And so the yonge man rode the nexte mornynge
hys waye and was very glad of hys chaunce. Nowe ye
maye see what that women can brew. Now beholde ye
ryche men of great power, & also yonge men the whiche
haue takē vpon you great busynes & take good heed har-
dely of false and subtile women. But alas who is it that
can take hede: for scrypture sayth that a man shall seldō
fynde an honest woman, or a worthy woman. For there
standeth wytten. Mulierem forte quis inuentet: procul
hic. &c. Who is that, yf may fynde a strong honest woman
or a substancyall honest woman, farre from hence or at
the ende of the worlde. Thus euerye man that wyl be
sure: he maye abstayne the face of women and the conuersa-
cion, theyr company, and beyng wyth them.

CAn olde deceyte doone
of olde tyme.

The



The seruantes of Herode Were sent forth, and
 haue takē saynt John & brought him to y^e gayle &
 there set hym fast in pryson for Herodias sake. And He-
 rodias layd agaynst him manye thinges & wolde haue
 beheded him, but they could not brynge it to passe, and
 Herod dyad John, for he knew well that he was a pro-
 phete and a holy man, and tooke great heed to him, and
 was obedient to him in many causes, and also he heard
 him gladly. And so it fortunēd vpon a day y^e he made a
 great supper for his gencyles & principall states of Ga-
 lyle. Than came in y^e doughter of Herodias, & dauuced,
 of the whiche kynge Herode and they that were at hys
 table tooke great pleasure therein. And incontynent said

J.ii.

king

Herode to Herodias daughter and sayd, desyre of
 what it please you and I wyll giue it you, and with
 that he swore an othe and sayd, what soeuer that ye wil
 desyre. I wyll giue it you, ye to halfe my realme to. Then
 sayd her mother to her, desyre and aske the head of John
 baptyst. And than incontinent she went to the kyng, in
 great hast, and sayde, I wyll that ye giue to me inconti-
 nent the hed of John baptyst in a platter. Then was the
 king very sorowful and so for his othe sake, and for the
 company that were at his table: he wolde not that she
 should desyre in vayne but gaue to her her desyre. And
 incontinent the kyng sent the hangman to the pryson,
 and caused him to hed John baptyst & so brought the head
 in a platter and gaue it the daughter, and the daughter
 gaue it forthwith to her mother. Nowe beholde how the
 holy prophet John baptyst lost his hed & lyfe thow
 the cause & falsed of the myscheuous womā Herodias
 Beholde what myschiefe and what maruaylous thynges
 that women can bringe to passe.

A new decepte doone of late of a
 Ialouse man that wolde
 not very well trust
 his wyfe.



There was in Italy a Well learned man the which
 had a fayre yonge floure to hys Wyfe. This man
 had for the moste part red al the practyses of y^e wo-
 me how that they were wont to deceyue their husbands
 and therfore he wolde not well trust hys Wyfe, and also
 he thought that he wolde take good heed, and to be well
 ware that he wolde not be deceyued wyth such deceyte
 and that perchaunce that his wyfe wolde spyn yll yarne
 like as many wylves had serued their husbands before.
 And so he abode in his ialousy wel. iiii. oz. iiii. yere in so
 much that his wyfe myght neuer be out of his presence
 but al wayes she must be by hym, without that she went
 to the churche for to heare masse, & incontynent to come
 home agayne. And alwayes whan she went to churche:
 she had an olde woman by her, as it is the maner in Ita-
 lye, the whiche tooke heed to her, And so it fortunied vpon
 a tyme that a yonge lustye man heard tell of the
 rule, and how that the fayre gentyl woman was trou-
 bled of her husbände with the fore named ialousy. And
 so it fortunied vpon a tyme that this yonge lusty man
 came and met with this fayre gentil woman, and spake
 to her secretly saying or tellynge to her his good wyl and
 intent and made his complaynt with heuy syghes to her
 that she marriede suche a Ialousse man. And he sayde to
 her that he loued her aboue al the women that were in
 the worlde, and she wed her what that he wolde doo for
 her loue, and sayd yf that it pleased you I wyl wyte it
 to you in a letter, for because that I may talke no lenger
 with you, yf I wist that my simple seruyce that cometh
 out of a good free heart should not be disdaind nor put
 besyde but accepted, and that my labour be not spent in
 vayne, and that my hande be not ydie occupied. And

I.iii.

Whan

Whan the gentyl woman heard these wordes of the poge
gentyll man and marked them well how that they were
made with a good wyll and wyth great desyre. And for
because that y olde trotte stode so nigh by her: she gaue
the ponge man no good answer nor yet no lounge
token, but she was content and desyred with good hert
and mynde for to see the letter and for to rede it. ¶ Thā
the ponge man tooke his leaue with a glad chere. for the
fayze gentyl womā gaue him a freendly farewell. And
so whan he was departed: the olde trotte that stode besyde
her, demaunded what he wolde wyth her: Than
answered her mastres and sayd he brought me tydynge
of my mother, of the whych I am verpe glad, for she is
yet in good health and is mery thanked be god. And so
they went home warde. And the next day whan the gen
tyl woman went to churche: her louer came and met w
her and had made a freendlye and a lounge letter the
whiche he put pruely in her hande that the olde trotte
knew nothyng therof. And whā she was secretly alone:
she opened the letter and dyd rede howe depelye that he
was taken in the loue of her, and wythout that she
wolde shewe grace to hym: he should suffre death, and
desyred her hertely that it myght remayne secretly, and
that his loue myght growe in her lyke as the loue of her
dyd growe in hym. And whan the gentyll woman
had red his letter: she tooke compassion vpon hym for
her herte brenned in the loue of hym, and wolde gladly
haue spoken wyth hym. to the ende that his loue should
not haue ben unrewarded, but she was so sharply wat
ched that she could not speake to hym, for she might not
go one foote out of her house, but whā it that she went v
to churche, and thā had she an olde totheles whoze that
tooke

tooke heed to her and neuer Went from her. This yonge
man the next daye dyd clothe hym in an other raymente
and came and met wyth the gentylwoman the whiche
knewe him well, and she passed so nyghe by hym: that she
tooke him her letter in his hand so priuely that no body
saue it, and he louyngly receyued it and dyligently rede
it, in the whiche he founde whole contracte and cōpacte
in so muche that they lacked nothinge but tyme and pla
ce. And so he was very gladde of the comfortable letter
that he had of her. And so he wente to a good frende of
his whiche dwelt in the waye as she wente to churche
warde, and shewed her all the bondage of hys heart how
he was set in the loue of her, desyringe her that she wolde
helpe hym in his cause, and in tyme cōmyng for to doo
as muche for her agayne, and so she promysed hym for
to helpe hym as muche as lay in her power for to doo,
Whan he hearde that: he thanked her and sayd be ye con
tent that I maye speke priuely wyth her in your house:
yea sayd y^e wyfe, speake wyth her as longe as it pleaseth
you yf it please her for to come in my house, for I wyll
be glad to shewe you all the pleasure that I can. Than
was the yonge man very glad and wrote a letter to hys
louer in whiche letter was conteyned this folowynge:
O my moste fayrest and gracious louer & comfort of my
hearte, y^e hope of my entent & mynde, the whiche hath so
strōgly caught my heart in the snare of your loue, for ye
be amōg al womē the moste gracy⁹ the most cōliest & one
that nature hath not forgotten, please it you to wytte
how that I your worthy seruaunt haue a secrete freend
the whiche knoweth you well. And so she knoweth
what a foule byllayne that ye haue to your husbande
And she dwelleth in the waye as pegoe to churchwarde
AND

and With your lycere I wyl be there in the one foz more
chabers in straunge clothes y no body shal knowe me, &
I wyl haue by me a kettell of water mengled w alshes &
Whan y ye com therby, I wil pore it vpon your clothes.
And Whan ye be thus fouled ye shal take it sco. nfull
ly, and go into y house foz to make you cleane, & than ye
shal sende youre keper home foz other rayment, and in
the meane seasō we wyl talke together of our loue, whan
she had red this letter: she wrote to hi againe y she was
content w al suche thinges as he had writte to her. And
the next day as she shoulde go to y church ward: her ty-
pet, her raile, her gowne, and al her clothes were al araye
ed w alshes and water, and than was this gentyl womā
angry and soze amoued, and so wēt into y house as if she
had bene ashamed, but it was but her countenaūce, and
thā her keper tooke a knife & scraped her gowne, as she
thought it best. Than sayde the gentyl woman (no no)
let it alone, foz we doo labour in vaine, foz it wyl not be
incontinent cleane. And therfore seynge there is no re-
medy: run quickli home and fetch me another gowne, a
typet, and a raile, and come quykly agayn y we lese nat
our masse. And thus is the olde trotte gone home foz o-
ther clothes, and incōtinent y gentyl woman wēt aboue
to her sweet herte, of the whiche she was loungly recei-
ued, and kissed her sweetly, and loungly embraced eche
other, and there was loue by loue, & there loue spake to
loue a longe tyme together. And Whan her keper came
home without her maistres: than her maister demaūded
of her where she had left his wyfe. Than sayde the olde
trot gentyl mayster we haue had a greate myfortune,
and so she vp and colde him al y was fortunēd, and ther-
fore I come foz another gowne, & foz another tippet foz

my maistres is ashamed for to go so in the strete. Than
sayd her mayster is it of a truch her keeper sayde syt it is
as I haue shewed you. Than sayde her mayster goe to
thy maistres, for I know wel what it is. for I haue rede
of moche decepte, myschiete and many subtil wares that
women haue to begile their husbandes with al, but this
subtil meanes, I neuer sawe nor rede afore this time.
And therfore he fell in great melancholy & died in thos
tyme after, for because y he had studeyed so long in vayne
and for bycause that he was so faisely dysceyued and by
suche subtil meanes. And therfore euey man take heed
to his wyfe and beware of dysceyfulness.



An olde deceyte doone in olde tyme.

The strong and worthy Hercules was overcome
in all his power and strength through the loue of
a yonge mayde, the fayre yole y^e kinges daughter
of Calidon, in y^e which the worthyest of the world could
not overcome and bring hym to shame. This kynge her
father had promysed Hercules that his daughter yole
should be hys wyfe, the whiche in shorte tyme after he re
pentred, of the whiche Hercules was very wrothe, and
tooke warre agaynst the kynge and overcame him, and
tooke all the countrey with the fayre yole the whiche he
so entyrelly loued. But yole the whiche thought more
vpon the death of her father than on the loue of Hercu
les vnder a colour of false loue and with subtil meanes
smylyng and with flatteryng wordes: hath drawen Her
cules to such great loue, y^e she caused him for to doo what
it pleased her and so she hath caused him for to doo lay a
way his yron staffe, wherwith he was wont for to rule
the stronge monsters and beastes wythall. She caused
him for to lay away the yrons skynne, and caused him
to be clothed with soft clothes of silke, she caused him for
to weare a crowne of roscmary vpon his head and gold e
rnynges vpon his fyngers, his rough here was kembered
and after the best maner trymmed, and set a crowne vpon
his hed and other costly ornamentse suche as the may
dens and women dyd weare. She caused his rough
berde to be auoynted with costlye oyle of Lypres.
Thys yole was well seene in deceyte a thought in her
selfe that it was more laudable to deceyue such a grosse
stronge man with aduoutye, than to kyl hym wyth the
sword of myschiese, and so to reuenge her fathers death
yet

yet to the dishonour of the worthy Hercules he caused
 hym for to giue him selfe to womens besynnes and ydle
 nes, in so muche that he went and sat among the womē
 and tolde ryddels and fortunes as the children dyd. and
 sat and spon yarne at the dystaffe as the women dyd.

Now beholde how the worthy Hercules is brought
 to femynyne woꝝkes thozough the decept of yole to his
 better confusyon, the whiche was wont to be so manly
 in all his feates. Now beholde, what myschiefe, what
 marnayles and what folyshnes that the false and subtil
 women can bynge to passe, yea that semeth vnpossible
 for to be, that can they doo and bynge to passe.



A new decepte doone of late.

In the Erledom of Henegou dwelt a ryche marchaunt
the whiche had a fayre hount yonge woman to hye
wyfe, which marchaunt was most parte from home
for because of his marchaundise, the whiche is not good
for yonge womē: for women be nyce and slpyper & spe-
cially whā they seidome see y they loue, for than lightly
turneth there minde. Lpke as it fortunēd wyth this mar-
chautes wyfe, for the long beyng forth of her husband
was the cause that her hert was set a fyre in the loue of
an other yonge man, with the whiche she had, had long
her pastyme secretly. And this marchaunt had an vnclē
the whiche dwelt ouer agaynst him, and saw euery night
whā the marchaunt was out of towne, an other cam
to hye house, and saw him go out in the moornyng a-
gayne. And so whā his vnclē had seene this manye ty-
mes: he went and shewēd the marchaunt what rule that
his wyfe kept whā he was from home about hye pro-
fyt, for whā he rode in colde and in rayne hye wyfe laye
wyth an other yong man dalyng in the bed. Whā the
marchaunt heard of this: he was not well content, and
so it fortunēd vpon a time the marchaunt was at home
and shortly made him redy & causēd his horse to be sad-
led, and sayd that he wold ryde a great iourney and that
it wold be longe ere that he came agayne & so he gaue
hye wyfe charge of his house, and that she should se that
all thinges were well and in good order. And in the
moornyng erly the marchaunt tooke his iourney and rode
forthe, and in the euenyng whā it was somewhat darke
he came home into the citie agayne and set his horse in a
stabl. by and by, and than came to his vnclē's house for

to knowe þe trowth, and for to
 his wyfe had sende word that
 of the towne. And whan that the
 the yonge man ca^{me} ^{ing bp and} ^{foze the}
 marchauntes ho^{use} ^{tyng yf there came any bodye}
 to the doore and ^{the man went walkyng bp &}
 downe to and ^{any tyme befoze the marchaun}
 tes house. The ^{aunt seying that: boldly went forth}
 of his vnckels house and came to the yonge mā and said
 My mastres sayd that ye shal go with me here behynd
 in the barne and there ye shall abyde for a season. for p-
 chaunce that our mayster come agayne. & so he took the
 yonge man and brought him p-ueelye to the barne and
 locked the doore fast þe he could not come out. And than
 he went out at the backe syde and came agayne to hys
 vnckels house and sayd the mouse is in the trap, what is
 now best to be doone? Thā sayd his vnckles wife, goe &
 fetch the her freendes that they may see what an honest wile
 that ye haue. And than the marchaunt went and fet hys
 wyues father and mother and her two brothers and
 two of her sisters, and caused them al for to com to his
 vnckels house & there he shewed vnto them what a false
 whoze that he had to his wyfe & how that he had locked
 her wower in the barne that he coulde not come out, and
 there despyed her freendes that they wolde helpe to kyll
 the false knaue, the whiche they all together þe were p-
 sent promised so for to doo. And the meane while that
 the marchaunt went for to get her freendes together: the
 gentyl woman his wyfe went out and walked too and
 fro, for to looke for her louer, and so as she went vp and
 downe: she came tofoze the barne vnknewen to her that
 her louer was there, and whan that he heard that there

R.iii.

was

7

encouraged hym selfe and
 until womā (his wyfe beyng
 sayd I am hys your loucr, ho w
 cam pen ong mā s
 me hether, & saw y pe said y
 y your husbād should com
 his wyfe, y is not so, I am a
 Than sayd the yong mā, et me
 the barne. Thā sayd the q til womā requyre y do not
 so, for than were I viterly yphonested & viterly shamed
 for euer, & she could not le hym out for she had not the
 key, and so she went shortly into the house and there she
 foude a būdell of olde keyes, & among y same keyes she
 foude a kepe y opened y barne doore, & so she let out her
 loucr, and in y same barne she went & set an asse for to
 saue her honesty, & than locked the barne fast agayne, &
 w a kisse they departed from thens and went to his rest
 And whan that all her freendes were assembled in his
 vncles house: than they tooke wyth them burnyng tor
 ches and other lyghtes, and so thei came befoze the mar
 chauntes doore with halberdes & swozdes and knocked
 at the doore, & incontynent the gencyl womā let them in
 & mariapled greatly and sayd, O my freend, what mes
 neth this y pe come so late here by night. And incontinet
 the marchaunt her husband tooke his fist and beate her
 that her nose and mouth ran a bloud, & said thou whoze
 thou shalt know anon wherfore. And so forth they went
 al together to the barne and there they stode with hal
 berdes and naked swozdes for to kyll the yonge man w
 all. And the marchaunt sayd to hys wyfe vnlocke the
 barne. The gencyl womā sayd, I neuer had the key, the
 key hath evermoze ben w your keyes. And thā he fet his

ter.
 was ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{way} ^{to} ^{the} ^{heaven}
 for grace and mercy. And so
 in peace and concord. And y
 ted and so if one see & know any
 holde his peace and be stil, and let go
 goddes lande and than ye shall haue no mylke thanke.

but sou
 led their lile
 euer more ha
 ges, let hy m
 water go ouer

¶ The conclusyon.

I sholde haue wrytten much more of the deceyte of
 women, for there was yet without namber in y pen
 And for bycause that it should not be to teduous for the
 reader, and that the women should not be discontent, and
 also it is agaynst my owne harte, for the conuersacion
 of the women is so sweet, so louely and so delectable to
 beholde, for without women may none be ful made, fur
 ther, there as is no women is none made. Also besyde y
 (as we finde wryten) the face and beauty of the woman
 kindelcth the hart of man. Therfore all ye good honest
 women, and vyrgyns be not myscontent, for y I haue
 writte heere is of the vntrew and noughti harlottes, the
 which seeke nothyng but good chere, and concupyscence
 of the fleshe, the which is the way to hell, from the whi
 che our mercyfull lorde Iesu Christ defende vs. Amen.

¶ A A A S.

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